

REMARKS

Regarding the Examiner's telephone interview, the Applicants provide the following detailed explanation for the inventive step of the present invention.

As cited by the Examiner, Jinsong fails to disclose "wherein one of the MCUs managed by the master conference management system serves as a master MCU, the other MCUs in the master conference management system and MCUs in the slave conference management system serve as slave MCUs, and the master conference management system is adapted for accomplishing cascading among the master MCU and the slave MCUs".

With the technical solution of the currently amended claim 1, since the master MCU and the slave MCUs can be cascaded by the master conference management system, the videoconference can be held through the master MCU without the need of respectively constructing a lot of (such as "N") links between a MCU (conference site) of a conference management system and a plurality of MCUs (conference sites) of another conference management system, i.e. only one cascade link is needed for the conference, and thus network bandwidth can be saved (such as the network bandwidth can be reduced from "N" to "1/N"). Further, It can be seen that in the present invention, since the master MCU and the slave MCUs can be cascaded automatically, a large-scale videoconference can be held efficiently and quickly, without any need to designate a dedicated person to perform conference dispatching and control, and thereby implementing interconnection across operators and across countries to meet the demand for public videoconference operation.

However, according to the methods for conference scheduling of Jinsong, the MCU is adapted to send signaling to terminals to instruct the terminals to e.g. establish a call, leave the conference, etc., or send signaling to the primary GK or the top GK. It is clear that Jinsong does not disclose the above cited technical features of the present invention. Further, these features are not taught, suggested and motivated by Jinsong.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the explanation and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Attorney. Alternatively, the matter may be discussed via

email provided, of course, that the entirety of the communications be made a part of the official public record.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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